

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 10, lines 7-12 with the following amended paragraph:

In the case of binary codes, an important technical element of the invention is the use of 4 state trellis stages derived from a basic section. In the embodiment described later on (in the paragraph labeled “(2) state basic sections...”), this section is called "H", and represents the extended Hamming code with parameters [8,4,4].

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 11, lines 15-19 with the following amended paragraph:

For codes on ring  $Z_4$  (which is the set  $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  provided with modulo 4 addition and multiplication), an equivalent code or a Nordstrom-Robinson code with parameters  $\{8,4,6\}$  may notably be used with the Lee distance (see the paragraph labeled “(3) state basic trellis...”).

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 11, lines 21-24 with the following amended paragraph:

Also, codes may be produced on  $Z_8$  and  $Z_{16}$ , by using two other small performing codes, in order to obtain stages with 64 and 256 states respectively (see the paragraph labeled “(4) 64 state basic...”).